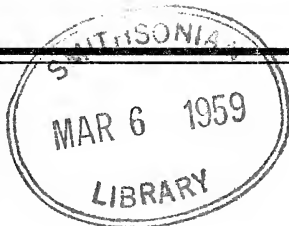


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PART 7

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY

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PART 7

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HABITS OF THE BRITISH CONOPIDAE (DIPT.)

By KENNETH G. V. SMITH

(Hope Department of Entomology, University Museum, Oxford)

The publication of a key (Smith, 1952) along with brief notes on distribution fulfilled its intended purpose of stimulating interest in the British Conopidae. This has brought forward many new observations on their distribution, habits and systematics which it now seems opportune to summarize.

The genus *Myopa* needs further revision due to the existence of species in Britain to which names cannot be applied with certainty in the present stage of our knowledge and more material would be welcomed for study. The synonymy of this genus in the European literature is still far from clear and many types need to be examined before the position is improved. *Myopa dorsalis* F. can definitely be removed from the British List as suggested elsewhere (Smith, 1955). In that paper I should have mentioned that *M. dorsalis* has been confused with *Sicus ferrugineus* (L.) by early British authors. This confusion probably arose from the fact that the name *Myopa ferruginea* has been used by Panzer for *M. dorsalis* F. and by Macquart for *Sicus ferrugineus* (L.). Mr. L. N. Kidd has kindly checked specimens on which Westmorland records for *M. dorsalis* were based and found them to be *Sicus ferrugineus*. I have been unable to trace the collection of H. Bury, but since he does not include the common *S. ferrugineus* from Shropshire (Bury, 1920) it can be safely assumed that he too recorded *M. dorsalis* in error for this species. Changes in the British *Thecophora* have been dealt with elsewhere (Smith, 1955c). As far as possible I have examined specimens on which published records of *Myopa* and *Thecophora* are based.

Although knowledge of the distribution of Conopidae in the British Isles is still incomplete maps have been included (figs. 2 to 10) since these illustrate clearly certain interesting patterns, e.g. the discontinuous distribution of *Physocephala nigra* (Deg.), the marked southern distribution of certain species and the absence from Ireland of the otherwise common and generally distributed *Conops flavipes* L. First and last dates of appearance are given under each species, but to obviate misleading impressions of normal time of occurrence, due to freak dates, a graphical flight-period table is given (fig. 1). I am aware of no new breeding records except for the specimen of *Sicus ferrugineus* mentioned below. Flowers visited and miscellaneous notes are given under each species.

Work of this kind owes much to others and I should like to thank all those who have so kindly sent specimens and their annual lists of data over the past ten years. Individual records, where new, are acknowledged under the species concerned, but I should like to record my thanks to the following entomologists for checking data, compiling lists and sending specimens

from Museum collections: A. R. Waterston (Royal Scottish Museum), C. Matheson and J. Cowley (National Museum of Wales), L. N. Kidd (Natural History Museum, Oldham), Dr. W. D. Hincks and S. Shaw (Manchester Museum), K. C. Durrant (King's Lynn Museum, Norfolk). The collections in the National Museum of Ireland, British Museum (Nat. Hist.),

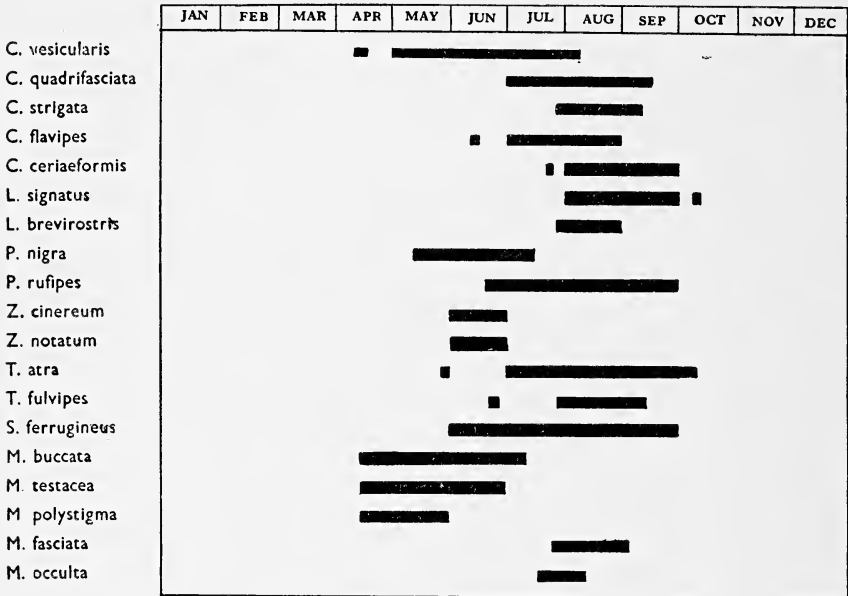


Fig. 1. Flight period table of British Conopidae.

Birmingham Museum, and the Hope Department of Entomology were examined by the author. The Birmingham Natural History and Philo-sophical Society are thanked for the award of a grant from their research fund in 1952.

Conopinae

Conops vesicularis L.

A rare species, usually associated with large areas of mixed woodland, with the following distribution in the British Isles.

ENGLAND. Berks: Reading, 1894, A. H. Hamm; Ascot, 25.v.1902, P. Harwood; Wellington College, July, 1918; Pamber Forest, 30.v.1931, E. Burt. Devon, S.: Bovey Tracey, 22.v.1916, R. C. L. Perkins; Halden, 21.v.1954, L. H. Woollat. Dorset: Knighton Heath, 22.v.1835, J. C. Dale; Waddock, 4.vii.1917, F. Haines; Oakers Wood, 20.v.1944, C. D. Day; Yellowham Wood, May-July, 1923-7, C. D. Day; Islington Wood, 12 and 29.v.1944, C. D. Day. Gloucester, W.: Moorend (Audcent, 1950: 60). Hampshire, N.: Silchester, 4.vi.1905, 9.vi.1907, P. Harwood. Hampshire, S.: Many records from New Forest; other localities include Chandlers Ford, Bournemouth, Holmsley and Frame Wood. Kent, W.: Tunbridge Wells,



Fig. 2. Distribution of *Comops vesicularis* L. and *C. quadrifasciata* Deg. in the British Isles.

May, 1928, C. G. Nurse. Lincoln: (No locality given) 27.vii.1914, G. Henderson (spec. in coll. O. M. White). Nottingham: Langford Moor, near Newark (Carr, 1916). Somerset, N.: Burrington Coombe, Long Ashton (Audcent, 1950:60). Suffolk: Timworth, C. G. Nurse (Morley and Atmore, 1916, say "a somewhat doubtful specimen"). Surrey: Bagshot, 25.v.1920, E. B. Ashby. Sussex, S.: Bignor, 17.iv.1945, C. H. Andrewes. Sussex, E.: Balcombe, 8.vi.1935, C. J. Wainwright; Ashdown Forest, 10.v.1937, K. G. Blair. Worcester: Wyre Forest (Bradley, 1894: 17).

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, Siberia.

This species visits flowers of *Berberis vulgaris* L., *Crataegus* spp. and *Rhododendron*. Its only known host is *Bombus muscorum* L.

Earliest date 4.iv (1945), latest date 8.viii (1946).

Conops quadrifasciatus Deg.

Easily the commonest species of the family and widely distributed. Locality data are given only when they appear to constitute new county or vice-county records. A male in the Hope Department (ex Killington) is pinned with a male *Sicus ferrugineus* L. and labelled "Apparently attempting to copulate."

ENGLAND. Bedford. Berks. Buckingham: Wormsley, 4.viii.1912, C. J. Wainwright (B.M. coll.); Hell Copse, 30.viii.1938, A. H. Hamm (Hope Dept.); Sarratt, 1.viii.1949, C. H. Andrewes; Great Missendon, 6.viii.1950, B. L. J. Byerley; Hell Copse, 4.ix.1955, K. G. V. Smith. Cambridge. Cheshire. Derby. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Essex, N. Essex, S.: Epping Forest, G. C. D. Griffiths. Gloucester, E. Hampshire, S. Hereford. Hertford. Huntingdon: Abbots Lipton, 15.viii.1908, M. Rothschild (B.M. coll.). Kent, E. and W. Leicester: Barkston, 20.viii.1939. Lincoln. Middlesex: Stanmore Common, K. G. Blair; Edgeware, 20.vii.1949, C. H. Andrewes; Finchley, Enfield, G. C. D. Griffiths. Norfolk, E.: Wroxham, 3.ix.1902, G. A. K. Marshall (Hope Dept.). Norfolk, W. Northampton. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. Somerset, S.: Near Minehead, 22.viii.1939, E. Taylor. Stafford. Suffolk, W. Surrey. Sussex, E. and W. Warwick. Wilts, N.: Savernake Forest, 23.viii.1936, B. M. Hobby; Bedwyn, 1.x.1942, K. G. Blair. Wilts, S.: Salisbury, 1.viii.1949, C. H. Andrewes. Worcester.

WALES. Glamorgan. Merioneth. Montgomery: Breiden Hill, 15.viii.1931, J. Hignet (C. H. W. Pugh coll.).

SCOTLAND. Aberdeen, S.: Glenmuick, 14.viii.1920, J. W. Bowhill (Roy. Scot. Mus. coll.). Argyll, Main: Loch Feochan, August, 1903, J. W. Bowhill (R.S.M.). Banff: Falls of Tanash, 15.viii.1937; Loch Park, 12-14.viii.1937; Glen of Drumlock, 16.viii.1937, R. L. Coe (B.M. coll.). Dumbarton: Bonhill, 29.vii-19.viii.1905, J. R. Malloch (R.S.M.). Elgin: Forres, 28.viii.1904, J. J. F. X. King (R.S.M.). Inverness, E.: Aveimore, vii.ix.1939-1948, P. Harwood; vii.1947, K. G. Blair; Loch Garten, 14.viii.1946, P. Harwood; Kincaig, 15.viii.1949, L. H. Woollat. Inverness, W.: Glenmorven, ix.1909, J. W. Bowhill (R.S.M.). Mull: Loch Freisa, viii.1905, J. W. Bowhill (R.S.M.). Perth, S. and Mid. Skye: (L. Parmenter, 1952: 26).

IRELAND. Armagh: Pontzpass, 17.viii.1921, W. F. Johnson (R.S.M.). Carlow. Cork, Mid and W. Donegal, W. Down. Dublin. Kerry, N. and S. Kildare. Kilkenny. Leix (Queen's Co.). Mayo, W. Waterford. Wicklow.

Range abroad: Europe and Asia Minor.

Flowers of the following plants are visited by this species: *Heracleum sphondylium* L., *Anthriscus sylvestris* Hoffm. (Umbelliferae); *Senecio jacobaea* L., *S. erucifolius* L., *Carduus arvensis* L., *Achillea ptarmica* L., *Solidago virgurea* L., *Scabiosa succisa* L. (Compositae); *Epilobium angustifolium* L. (Onograceae); *Pyrola rotundifolia* L. (Ericaceae); *Mentha aquatica* L. (Labiatae); *Rubus* spp. (Rosaceae); *Lychnis dioica* L. (Carophyllaceae).

Parasitic on *Bombus lapidarius* L.

Earliest date 8.vii (1945), latest date 29.ix (1937).

Conops strigata Wied.

A rare species with a southern distribution. All locality data are given whether or not they constitute new county records.

ENGLAND. Devon, N.: Woody Bay, Lee Abbey and East Lynn Valley (Hunter, 1920); Bratton Fleming, B. L. J. Byerley. Devon, S.: Dartmoor (D'Orville, 1898); Bovey Tracey, R. C. L. Perkins (B.M. coll.). Dorset: Crichel, 28.vii.1940, Blandford, 3.ix.1954, P. Harwood. Hants, S.: New Forest, many records; Braemore, H. W. Andrews; Brockenhurst, G. Gulliver. Hereford: Moccas Park, 6.viii.1913, C. J. Wainwright (B.M. coll.). Lancs., N.: Holker Moss, 29.vii.1919, C. A. Cheetham (on file compiled by H. Britten in Manchester Museum). Nottingham: Langford Moor, near Newark (Carr, 1916); Budby, 1.viii.1938, O. M. White. Oxford: Watlington (Killington, 1937). Somerset, S.: Minehead, 24.viii.1921, L. Lacey (B.M. coll.). Sussex, E.: Staplefield, viii.1920, K. G. Blair. Worcs: Wyre Forest, 21.viii.1911, C. J. Wainwright (B.M. coll.).

IRELAND. Kerry, N.: Near Killarney (Smith, 1952: 205).

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe.

This species visits flowers of *Senecio jacobaea* L. and *Scabiosa succisa* L. (Compositae) Hosts unknown.

Earliest date 28.vii (1921, 1938), latest date 11.ix (1954).

Conops flavipes L.

A fairly common and widely distributed species. Locality data are only given where they appear to constitute new county records. Killington (1932) records a form of this species in which the frons is all black. I have a specimen of this form in my collection taken at Nottingham by Mr. O. M. White.

ENGLAND. Bedford. Berks. Buckingham: Burnham, 10.viii.1917, C. H. Andrews. Cambridge. Cheshire: Hatchmere, 7.viii.1911, H. Womersley; Pettypool, viii.1917, G. G. Buckley; Cuddington, 11.viii.1940, H. Britten; Bollin Valley, 26.vii.1947, H. Britten; North Rode, 15.vii.1945, H. Britten; Peover Heath, 1.viii.1952, B. L. J. Byerley. Cornwall, E. and W. Cumberland. Derby. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Essex, N. and S. Hants, S.



Fig. 3. Distribution of *Conops strigata* Wd. and *C. flavipes* L. in the British Isles.

Hereford. Hertford. Kent, E. and W. Lancs, N. and S. Lincoln. Middlesex. Norfolk, E.: Kings Lynn, August, 1904 (Malloch coll. Roy. Scot. Mus.). Norfolk, W. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. and S. Stafford. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Sussex, E. and S. Warwick. Westmorland: Witherslack, vii-ix.1940-42; Arnside, 2.viii.1935, 9.vi.1938, A. E. Wright. Wiltshire, N.: Savernake Forest, 23.viii.1936, B. M. Hobby (Hope Dept. coll.). Wiltshire, S.: Collingbourne Wood, 15.vii.1915, P. Harwood. Worcester: Bewdley, 30.viii.1892, G. H. Verrall (B.M. coll.) Yorks, SE., NE. and Mid W.

WALES. Carnarvon: Portmadoc, 5.viii.1916, C. H. Andrewes. Glamorgan. Radnor: Rhayader, 18.vii.1910, C. J. Wainwright (B.M. coll.).

SCOTLAND. Dumfries: Solway district, 24.viii.1879, R. Service. Perth, S.

Range abroad: Europe and North Africa.

The following flowers are visited: *Angelica sylvestris* L., *Heraclium sphondylium* L. (Umbelliferae); *Eupatorium cannabinum* L., *Senecio aquaticus* Hill, *S. jacobaea* L., *Cirsium* sp., *C. arvense* L., *Scabiosa succisa* L., *Solidago virgurea* L. (Compositae); *Mentha aquatica* L. (Labiatae); *Spiraea ulmaria* L., *Rubus* spp. (Rosaceae); *Epilobium angustifolium* L. (Onagraceae).

Hosts are *Bombus lapidarius* L. and *Osmia* sp.

Earliest date 9.vi (1938), latest date 11.ix (1951).

Conops ceriaeformis Mg.

This species appears to be most abundant in the south-eastern coastal counties, especially Kent and Hampshire. The late H. W. Andrews working Kent and Hampshire described it as "easily the commonest *Conops*." Dr. C. H. Andrewes finds it "plentiful on *Scabiosa* and *Solidago* in Kent," and Killington (1932) says "some numbers" (in 1929) and "fairly common" (in 1930). In midland and more northern counties it is a rare species. Audcent (1950) says "very rare" in the Bristol area. It appears to have been commoner in the past, J. H. Wood described it as "common" in Hereford and there are several Hereford specimens in the Hope Department, but I know of no recent records and I used to work the county myself a few years ago. J. Bradly (1892) records it as "taken freely" in Wyre Forest (Worcester-Shropshire), but this locality is well worked by Birmingham entomologists and again I know of no recent specimens. If the hosts of this species were known it would perhaps help with this problem.

ENGLAND. Berks. Buckingham: Hell Copse, 4.ix.1955, in web of the spider *Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck), K. G. V. Smith. Cambridge. Cheshire: Abbots Moss, 22.vii.1911, H. Womersley; Pettypool, viii.1917, G. G. Buckley (H. Britten's card index in Manchester Museum). Devon, N. Devon, S.: Start Point, ix.1939, K. G. Blair. Dorset: Lewell Marsh, 10.ix.1907, 5.ix.1923, P. Harwood (C. D. Day coll.). Essex. Hants, N.: Pamber Forest, 20.viii.1904, A. H. Hamm (Hope Dept.). Hants, S. (inc. Isle of Wight). Hereford. Kent, E and W. Oxford. Somerset, N. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Worcester.

SCOTLAND. Kincardine: Invercannie. This record has previously been published (Mearns, 1901, and Bloomfield, 1901), but seemed dubious in view of the otherwise southern distribution of *C. ceriaeformis*; however, I have examined the specimen, a female, in the Royal Scottish Museum, and can confirm the identification.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, North Africa.

The following flowers are visited: *Heraclium sphondylium* L. (Umbelliferae); *Cirsium arvense* L., *Eupatorium cannabinum* L., *Scabiosa succisa* L., *Senecio jacobaea* L., *Solidago virgurea* L. (Compositae); *Mentha aquatica* L., *Origanum vulgare* L. (Labiatae).

Hosts unknown.

Earliest date 22.vii (1911), latest date 23.ix (1929).

Leopoldius signatus (Wied.)

I have recently summarised the distribution of this species (Smith, 1955a) and can offer no new county records. A specimen in the Pickard-Cambridge collection at Oxford almost certainly came from Dorset, but in the absence of a data label it is better to omit this. Two additional Berkshire records are given below.

ENGLAND. Berks: (Additional records) Wytham Wood, sitting on oak leaf, 27.vii.1956, G. C. Varley; Wytham Wood, 17.ix.1956, L. R. Cole, as prey of the spider *Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck). Cambridge. Cornwall, W. Gloucester, W. Hertford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. Suffolk, W. Worcester.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe.

Usually taken at Ivy blossom (*Hedera helix* L.).

Hosts unknown.

Earliest date 18.viii (1936), latest date 12.x (1939).

Leopoldius brevisrostris (Germ.)

This species has not been taken in Britain since Wainwright (1938) recorded it from the following counties.

ENGLAND. Berks. Hants. Oxford.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe.

Hosts unknown.

Earliest date 28.vii (1937), latest date 14.viii (1935).

Physocephala nigra (Deg.)

A rare species with a peculiar discontinuous distribution. All locality records are given whether or not they constitute new county records.

ENGLAND. Dorset: Studland Heath, Brockhampton, Puddleton Heath, Moreton, Wareham, Arne, Canford Heath. Hants, N.: Silchester, 4.vi.1905, P. Harwood (new record). Hants S.: New Forest, several records. Kent, E.: Near Faversham, R. B. Robertson (1919: 59). Yorks, NE.: Hutton B. shell, near Scarborough, E. G. Bayford (Roy. Scot. Mus.).



Fig. 4. Distribution of *Conops ceriaeformis* Mg. and *Leopoldius signatus* (Wd.) in the British Isles.

SCOTLAND. Argyll, Main: Loch Awe, 16.vi.1918, J. W. Bowhill (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Inverness, W.: Achnacarrie, 19.vi.1939, K. J. Morton (Roy Scot. Mus.). Ross, E. and W.: Fortrose, 3-14.vii.1919, W. R. Ogilvie Grant (B.M. coll.); Longart Forest, 18.vii.1956, Cadha Buidha, 20.vii.1956, B. L. J. Byerley (see 1956, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 92: xl). Sutherland, W.: Loch Assynt (Yerbury, 1912-13).

Found throughout Europe.

Parasitic on *Bombus muscorum* L.

Flowers visited: Rhododendron and Heather (*Erica*).

Earliest date 29.v (1954), latest date 20.vii (1919).

Physocephala rufipes (F.)

A common species with a southern distribution. Only new county records are given in full.

ENGLAND. Berks: Mortimer Beech Hill, 28.viii.1916, C. F. Thornwell; near Iffley, 21.vii.1938, E. Taylor; Kennington, 24.viii.1942, B. M. Hobby (all Hope Dept. coll.); Virginia Water, 1.ix.1946, J. Dering (B.M. coll.). Buckingham: Penn, 4.ix.1917, C. H. Andrewes; Dunsmore, 13.viii.1950, F. L. Hatcher. Cambridge. Cheshire: Delamere, 29.vii.1922, G. Wynne; Bosley Cloud, 14.viii.1946, G. C. Bartindale (H. Britten's file in Manchester Museum). Cornwall, E. and W. Derby: Shardlow, 24.vii.1948, O. M. White. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Essex, N. and S. Gloucester, E.: Coombe Hill, 2.viii.1945, 26.viii.1946, J. Edwards. Gloucester, W. Hants, S. (includes Isle of Wight). Hereford. Hertford. Kent, E. and W. Lincoln: No locality, 27.vii.1914, G. Henderson (O. M. White coll.). Lincoln, S.: Corby, 11.vii.1957, C. A. Collingwood. Middlesex. Norfolk, E. and W. Northampton: Ashton Wold, Oundle, 13.viii.1910, N. C. Rothschild (B.M. coll.). Oxford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. and S. Stafford: Alton, 10.viii.1949; Bishops Wood, 14.viii.1952, J. Edwards. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Sussex, S. and E. Warwick. Wilts, S.: Salisbury, 3.viii.1948, Whiteparish, 13.vii.1950, C. H. Andrewes. Wilts, N.: Calne, 11.vii.1954, K. G. V. Smith. Worcester: Randan Wood, Bromsgrove, 25.viii.1955, R. L. Barrow. Yorks, NE.

WALES. Denbigh: Llangollen, Dr. Portman (B.M. coll.). Glamorgan. Pembroke: Milford Haven, H. W. Andrews.

Channel Isles: Jersey (Smith, in press). Scilly Isles: St. Mary's, vii.1911, vii.1919, K. G. Blair.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe.

The following flowers are visited: *Mentha aquatica* L. (Labiatae); *Pimpinella saxifraga* L., *Torilis japonica* Hautt, *Angelica sylvestris* L. (Umbelliferae); *Rubus* spp. (Rosaceae); *Senecio jacobaea* L., *Scabiosa succisa* L., *Carduus arvensis* L., *Inula* sp., *Pulicaria* sp. (Compositae); *Hypericum perforatum* L. (Hypericaceae).

Parasitic on *Bombus terrestris* L., *B. lapidarius* L., *B. hortorum* L., *B. agrorum* F., *B. ruderarius* M. (vide Cumber, 1949).

Earliest date 27.vi (1940, 1950), latest date 18.ix (1924).



Fig. 5. Distribution of *Leopoldinus brevisrostris* (Germ.) and *Physocephala nigra* (Deg.) in the British Isles.

Myopinae

Zodion cinereum (F.)

An uncommon species mainly in southern England. Locality records are only given where they constitute new county records.

ENGLAND. Bedford. Berks: Tubney, 3.vii.1904, A. H. Hamm (Hope Dept. coll.); Wootton, 14.vi.1956, K. G. V. Smith. Buckingham: Wendover, 9.vi.1899, J. W. Yerbury (B.M. coll.). Cambs. Dorset: Holt, vii.1930, 4.vii.1953, P. Harwood; Studland, 5.vii.1937, P. Harwood; Garley Heath, 14.vii.1952, P. Harwood; Swanage, 1948, H. W. Andrews; Tadnall Marsh, 13.vi.1946, C. D. Day. Gloucester, W. Hants, S. Hereford. Herts. Kent, W.: Eynsford, 19.vi.1932, R. L. Coe (B.M. coll.). Norfolk, W.: Kings Lynn, H. W. Andrews. Oxford. Suffolk, W. Surrey. Yorks, SE. and NE.

Range abroad: Europe, North Africa and Central Asia.

This species is usually taken by sweeping, but visits the following flowers: *Mentha aquatica* L. (Labiatae); *Iberis* spp. (Cruciferae); *Ranunculus* spp. (Ranunculaceae); *Papaver rhoeas* L. (Papaveraceae).

Parasitic on *Halictus rubicundus* Christ. and *H. nylanderii*.

Earliest date 3.vi (1936), latest date 11.viii (1954).

Zodion notatum (Mg.)

This is probably only a variety of *Z. cinereum*. I have examined Mr. Andrews' specimens and find them to differ only in the blacker third antennal joint; however, until type material can be examined it is better to retain Meigen's name for these dark forms.

ENGLAND. Dorset: Swanage, vi.1948, H. W. Andrews. Hants, S.: Breamore, H. W. Andrews. Hertford: Felden, 12.vi.1893 (Gibbs and Barraud, 1908).

Range abroad: Northern and Central Europe, Egypt.

Hosts unknown.

Thecophora atra (F.)

This species varies considerably in size, which has resulted in its being recorded in Britain as *T. atra* F. (large) and *T. pusilla* (Mg.) (small). Elsewhere (Smith, 1955c) I have suggested that *T. pusilla* should be removed from the British List although at that time I had not seen true *T. pusilla* myself. Since then, however, I have examined *T. pusilla* among some Conopidae from Yugoslavia sent for determination by Mr. R. L. Coe, and there remains no doubt that it is distinct from any known British species. In the following account of distribution the records of *T. atra* and *T. pusilla* (*sensu* British authors) are amalgamated.

ENGLAND. Bedford. Berks: Reading, Hardwick, 12.ix.1906, E. Burt (Hope Dept. coll.). Cambridge. Cornwall. Derby. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Gloucester, E. and W. Hants, S. (including Isle of Wight). Hereford. Hertford. Kent, E. and W. Middlesex: Harefield, 29.viii-3.x.1954, B. L. J.



Fig. 6. Distribution of *Physocephala rufipes* (F.) and *Zodium cinereum* (F.) in the British Isles.

Byerley (1955, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 91:vii). Norfolk, E. and W. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire: Shifnal, 9.viii.1907, A. Beaumont (B.M. coll.); Hodnet, 14.viii.1954, K. G. V. Smith. Somerset, N. Stafford. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Sussex, E. and W. Warwicks: Cloweswood, 11.ix.1951, K. G. V. Smith. Westmorland. Wilts, N.: Highworth, 19.vii.1922, W. J. Arkell (Hope Dept. coll.). Wilts, S.: Salisbury, 18.vii.1950, C. H. Andrewes.

WALES. Glamorgan. Pembroke: Milford Haven, H. W. Andrews.

SCOTLAND. Arran: Catacol, ix.1920, J. Waterston (B.M. coll.). Edinburgh. Elgin: Grantown-on-Spey, 4 and 26.viii.1942, P. Harwood.

IRELAND. Cavan: Cornoflan, 4.viii.1937, 29.vii.1933, 14.vii.1935, R. C. Farris (B.M. coll.). Down. Mayo, W. Waterford.

Scilly Isles: Trescoe, vii.1901, A. Allard (B.M. coll.).

Range abroad: Europe, Near East, North Africa.

This species visits the following flowers: *Scabiosa succisa* L., *Hieracium* spp., Thistles (Compositae); *Veronica* sp. (Scrophulariaceae); *Senecio jacobaea* L., *S. squalidus* L., *S. erucifolius* L. (Compositae).

Hosts unknown, but often found associated with colonies of *Halictus*. O. M. White (1957) observed this species in the vicinity of a *Halictus* colony, but was unable to prove any definite association.

Earliest date 6.v (1893), latest date 10.x (1944).

Thecophora fulvipes (Desv.) (= *sundewalli* Zett.)

First recorded in Britain by Curtis (1838: pl. 677) (as *fulvipes*) and later by Grimshaw (1904: 221-2) (as *sundewalli*), overlooked in the British List until 1955 (Smith, 1955c: 299) when it was reinstated with the above synonymy. Desvoidy's type no longer exists, but I feel that his *fulvipes* is too large to be synonymized with *atra* and it is obvious that Kröber (1925: 39) was not confident in suggesting this synonymy. Some may feel antagonistic towards the use of *fulvipes* in place of the more familiar *sundewalli*, but no one as yet has satisfactorily accounted for *fulvipes* otherwise.

ENGLAND. Cornwall. Devon. Dorset. Gloucester. Hants, S. Hereford. Oxford. Westmorland.

WALES. Anglesey.

SCOTLAND. Argyll. Arran. Inverness, E.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, Caucasus, North Africa.

Hosts unknown.

Earliest date 23.vi (1940), latest date 29.viii (1904).

Sicus ferrugineus (L.)

A widely distributed species. Locality data are only given where they constitute new county records.

ENGLAND. Berks. Buckingham: Wendover, 3.viii.1926, K. G. Blair; Burnham Beeches, 9.vii.1950, C. H. Andrewes. Cambridge. Cheshire:



Fig. 7. Distribution of *Thecophora atra* (F.) and *T. fulvipes* (Desv.) in the British Isles.

Abbots Moss, 1.viii.1953, J. Edwards. Cornwall. Cumberland. Derby. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Essex. Gloucester, W. Hants, S. (including Isle of Wight). Hereford. Hertford. Kent, E. and W. Lancs, S.: Ainsdale, near Southport, 1.viii.1953, P. F. Entwistle; Freshfield, 1.vi.1953, P. Skidmore. Lincoln, N. and S. Leicester. Middlesex: Edgeware, 17.vii.1949, C. H. Andrewes. Norfolk, E. and W. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire: Whixall Moss, 16.vii.1927, 28.vii.1936, 14.viii.1941, C. H. W. Pugh; H. Bury's (1920) record of *Myopa dorsalis* F. from Bomere, viii, must be referred to this species. Somerset, N. and S. Stafford. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Sussex. Warwicks: Cloweswood, 13.vii.1946, K. G. V. Smith. Westmorland: Witherslack, 19.vii.1910, J. J. Lister (Hope Dept. coll.). Wilts, S.: Wilton, 20.vii.1950, Whiteparish, 13.vii.1950, C. H. Andrewes. Worcester: Wyre Forest, 5.vi.1948, K. G. V. Smith; Randan Wood, near Bromsgrove, 24.vii.1952, F. Fincher. Yorks, SE., NE., SW., Mid W.

WALES. Glamorgan: Porthcawl, vii.1927, H. M. Hallett (K. G. Blair *in litt.*). Merioneth: Cader Idris, 24.vii.1949, C. H. W. Pugh. Pembroke: Milford Haven, H. W. Andrews.

SCOTLAND. Argyll, Main: R. Awe, ix.1915; Loch Feochan, viii.1904, J. W. Bowhill (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Ayr: Dundonald, 14.vii.1900, A. A. Daghish (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Clyde Isles: Bute, 22.vii.1916 (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Cromarty: Suturs of Cromarty, 17.vii.1905, W. R. O. Hart. Dumfries. Elgin: Culbin Sands, 4.vii.1899, J. W. Yerbury. Inverness, E. Inverness, W.: Sunart, 19.vii.1934, H. Latham (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Perth, S.: Callandar, 8.viii.1924, J. E. Collin (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Sutherland, E.: Golspie, 9.viii.1900; The Mound, 30.vii.1900, J. W. Yerbury (Roy. Scot. Mus.).

IRELAND. Cork, W. Down. Dublin. Kerry, N. and S. Louth: Termonfeckin, 23.viii.1924, W. F. Johnson (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Mayo, W. (including Clare Island). Waterford. Wexford. Wicklow.

Range abroad: Europe, Siberia, North Africa, Central Asia.

The following flowers are visited: *Rubus* spp. (Rosaceae); *Hieracium* spp., *Onopordon acanthium* L., *Cirsium* sp., *Hypochoeris* sp. (Compositae); *Mentha aquatica* L., *Thymus serpyllum* L. (Labiatae); *Epilobium angustifolium* L. (Onagraceae). Often taken by sweeping long grass under hedgerows, etc.

Parasitic on *Bombus terrestris* L., *B. agrorum* F., *B. hortorum* L. and *B. lapidarius* L. In the British Museum there is a specimen with its puparium, Yorkshire, Allerston, 25.vi.1955, bred ex "bee segments" in Pine woods, J. H. Styles. I wrote to Mr. Styles asking for further details and it appears that the puparium was collected ex Scots Pine litter from a square yard sample plot, during the collection of *Bupalus piniarius* L. pupae during the winter 1954-5. Unfortunately the remains of the host bee were mislaid so cannot be determined.

Earliest date 1.vi (1953), latest date 9.ix (1923).



Fig. 8. Distribution of *Sicus ferrugineus* (L.) and *Myopa buccata* (L.) in the British Isles.

Myopa buccata (L.)

The commonest member of the genus with a wide distribution.

ENGLAND. Bedford: Fancott, B. R. Laurence. Berks: Bagley Wood, 20.v.1905, 3.vi.1932, Cothill, v.1935, A. H. Hamm; Wellington College, 20.v.1920, W. J. Arkell. Bucks: Hell Copse, 16.v.1955, M. F. Claridge; Yorks Wood, 19.v.1957, W. J. Le Quesne. Cambridge. Cheshire: Ballaton, 28.v.1950, C. H. Andrewes; Frodshom, P. Skidmore. Cornwall. Cumberland. Devon, N. and S. Dorset. Durham. Essex. Gloucester, E. and W. Hants, S. Hants, N.: Near Basingstoke, Pamber Forest, 26.v.1902, H. Donisthorpe (Hope Dept. coll.). Hereford. Hertford. Kent, N. and S. Leicester. Lincoln. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. Stafford: Alton, 25.iv.1948, 22.iv.1953, J. Edwards. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey. Sussex. Warwicks: Brailes, vi.1918, K. G. Blair. Wilts, N.: Highworth, 29.vi.1923, W. J. Arkell (Hope Dept. coll.). Yorks, SE., NE., SW., Mid W.

WALES. Glamorgan.

SCOTLAND. Aberdeen, S.: Ballata, C. H. Andrewes. Clyde Isles: Arran, Kilbride, vi.1940, H. Latham (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Dumbarton: Bonhill, 20.v.1904, 22.v—10.vi.1905, J. R. Malloch (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Elgin: Forres, Culbin Sands, 31.v.1951, P. Harwood. Inverness, E. Perth, Mid: River Lyon, 23.v.1920, J. W. Bowhill (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Sutherland, E.: Golspie, 7.vi.1904, J. W. Yerbury.

IRELAND. Carlow. Cork, W. Kerry, S. Wexford. Wicklow.

Channel Isles: Jersey (Smith, in press).

Range abroad: Europe, Central Asia, Asia Minor, Syria, North Africa, Japan.

The following flowers are visited: *Crataegus* sp. (Rosaceae); *Allium ursinum* L., *Scilla* sp. (Liliaceae); *Euphorbia amygdaloides* L. (Euphorbiaceae); *Vaccinium* sp. (Vacciniaceae); *Anemone nemorosa* L., *Ranunculus* sp. (Ranunculaceae); *Taraxacum officinale* agg. (Compositae); *Ajuga* sp. (Labiatae); *Salix* sp. (Salicaceae).

Species of *Myopa* are parasitic on *Vespula vulgaris* L., *Andrena carbonaria* L., *Bombus*, *Eucera*, *Colletes*.

Earliest date 14.iv (1933), latest date 9.vii (1907).

M. buccata has been recorded as prey of the Asilid *Neoitamus cyanurus* Lw. (Poulton, 1906: 356).

Myopa testacea (L.)

An uncommon but widely distributed species.

ENGLAND. Berks: Bagley Wood, 25.v.1902, W. Holland; 8.v.1938, R. Patterson; Tubney, 3-4.v.1935, A. H. Hamm. Cambridge. Cheshire: Wilmslow, 18.v.1954, P. Skidmore. Devon, S. Dorset. Essex, N. and S. Gloucester, W. Hants, S. (including Isle of Wight, 21.iv.1936, G. Jeffery; Brook, 23.iv.1949, K. G. Blair). Hereford. Hertford. Isle of Man: Ballig Bridge (500 ft. Map Ref. 764050), 17.vi.1949, J. M. Nelson. Kent, E. and W.



Fig. 9. Distribution of *Myopa testacea* (L.) and *M. polystigma* Rond. in the British Isles.

Leicester. Middlesex. Nottingham. Oxford. Shropshire. Somerset, N. Stafford: Cannock Chase, 9.v.1953, J. Edwards. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey, S. and E. Sussex. Wilts, N.: Highworth, 28-29.iv.1920, W. J. Arkell (Hope Dept. coll.). Worcester: Wyre Forest, 11.v.1901, C. J. Wainwright (B.M. coll.); Malvern, 21.iv.1955, R. L. Barrow. Yorks, SE., SW., Mid W.

WALES. Brecon: Hay, 28.v.1899, J. W. Yerbury (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Merioneth: Barmouth, 12.v.1902, J. W. Yerbury (Hope Dept. coll.). Monmouth: Abergavenny, A. Chapman (B.M. coll.).

SCOTLAND. Eastlothian. Edinburgh. Dumfries. Inverness, E.: Aviemore, 1908, McArthur (B.M. coll.). Perth, Mid: 23.v.1920, R. Lyon (Roy. Scot. Mus.).

IRELAND. Armagh. Cavan: Cornafean, 25.v.1935, 30.iv.1939, R. C. Farris (B.M. coll.). Dublin.

Range abroad: Europe, Central Asia, Asia Minor, Syria, North Africa, Siberia, Japan.

Flowers visited: *Allium ursinum* L. (Liliaceae); *Crataegus* sp., *Prunus spinosa* L. (Rosaceae); *Taraxacum officinale* agg. (Compositae) and Umbelliferae.

Earliest date 21.iv (1955), latest date 19.vi (1889).

Myopa polystigma Rond.

A rare species with a southern distribution.

ENGLAND. Cambridge. Devon, S. Dorset: Parley, 24.iv.1953; Wimborne, 26.iv.1953, Witchampton, 22.iv.1954, all P. Harwood. Essex, N. and S. Gloucester, E. Hants, S. Hereford. Hertford: Totteridge, 18.iv.1956, G. C. D. Griffiths. Kent, E. and W. Middlesex: Highgate, 9.v.1920, Finchley, 18.v.1949, C. H. Andrewes; Finchley, 21-23.iv.1956, G. C. D. Griffiths. Nottingham: S. Leverton, v.1897, A. Thornley (Roy. Scot. Mus.). Oxford. Somerset, N. Suffolk, W.: Waldingfield, 1922, Sudbury, 1930, P. Harwood. Surrey. Sussex, S. and E. Warwicks: Stoke, near Coventry, 8.v.1920, J. W. Saunt (C. D. Day coll.). Yorks, SE., Mid W.

IRELAND. Dublin.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, Caucasus.

Flowers visited: *Salix* sp. (Salicaceae); *Allium ursinum* L. (Liliaceae); *Taraxacum officinale* agg. (Compositae); *Prunus spinosa* L. (Rosaceae).

Earliest date 18.iv, latest date 23.v (1898).

Myopa fasciata Mg.

A rare species with a southern distribution.

ENGLAND. Berks. Devon, S.: Bovey Tracey, 2.ix.1931, R. C. L. Perkins (B.M. coll.). Dorset. Hants, N. and S. (Isle of Wight, Sandown, 16.viii.1903, W. Holland (Hope Dept. coll.)). Norfolk, E.: West Runton, 31.vii.1900, C. J. Nurse (B.M. coll.). Oxford. Suffolk, E. and W. Surrey.

IRELAND. Kerry, S.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, Siberia.



Fig. 10. Distribution of *Myopa fasciata* Mg. and *M. occulta* Mg. in the British Isles.

Flowers visited: *Senecio jacobaea* L., *Taraxacum* sp., *Leontodon* sp. (Compositae); *Daucus* sp. (Umbelliferae); *Fasione* (Campanulaceae); *Silene otites* L. (Cargophyllaceae); *Calluna vulgaris* L. (Ericaceae).

Earliest date 18.vii (1933), latest date 2.ix (1931).

Myopa occulta Mg.

Only two British specimens known, discussed fully elsewhere (Smith, 1955). Morley and Atmore (1916) record two specimens from King's Lynn, Norfolk, July, 1912, and several, July, 1913, with the comment "Believed to be this species by J. E. Collin; if confirmed this will be new to Britain. All were taken on flowers of *Anthemis arvensis*, the Corn Chamomile." Mr. Collin informs me that he never saw these specimens and Mr. K. C. Durrant has sent me all the *Myopa* specimens from Morley and Atmore's collection in the King's Lynn Museum, none of which were *occulta*. It seems safer to ignore these records. Fordham, though dealing with Yorkshire Conopidae, mentions Morley and Atmore's record and also gives "Wigsley Wood, Notts in July." This record too is better ignored until some confirmation is forthcoming.

ENGLAND. Hants, S.: Breamore, H. W. Andrews. Hants, N.: Bordean, J. C. Dale.

Range abroad: Central and Southern Europe, North Africa.

Kröber (1925:32) mentions that this species visits flowers of *Trifolium* and *Dorycnium*.

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